

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DEBARMENT**

### **What is “Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion”?**

These terms refer to the status of a person that cannot contract with or received grants from a federal agency.

In order to be debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded, you must:

- Have had a contract or grant with a federal agency, and
- Have gone through some process where the federal agency notified or attempted to notify you that you could not contract with the federal agency
- Generally, this process occurs where you, the contractor, are not qualified or are not adequately performing under a contract, or have violated a regulation or law pertaining to the contract.

### **Why am I required to sign this certification?**

You are requesting a contract or grant with DSHS. Federal law (Executive Order 12549) requires DSHS to ensure that persons or companies that contract with DSHS are not prohibited from having federal contracts.

### **What is Executive Order 12549?**

Executive Order 12549 refers to Federal Executive Order Number 12549. The executive order was signed by the President of the United States and directed federal agencies to ensure that federal agencies, and any state or other agency receiving federal funds were not contracting or awarding grants to persons, organizations, or companies who have been excluded from participating in federal contracts or grants.

### **What does the word “proposal” mean when referred to in this certification?**

Proposal means a solicited or unsolicited bid, application, request, invitation to consider or similar communication from you to DSHS.

### **What or who is “lower tier participant”?**

Lower tier participant means a person or organization that submits a proposal, enters into contracts with, or receives a grant from DSHS, OR any subcontractor of a contract with DSHS. If you hire subcontractors, you should require them to sign a certification and keep it with your subcontract.

### **What is a covered transaction when referred to in this certification?**

Covered Transaction means a contract, oral or written agreement, grant, or any other arrangement where you contract with or received money from DSHS. Covered Transaction does not include mandatory entitlements and individual benefits.